

# Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

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## *2006 Refuge Black Bear Hunt Regulations*

Hunting shall be in accordance with all applicable Refuge, State, and Federal regulations. *You are responsible for knowing all regulations. Violations of regulations will result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and may lead to prosecution in Federal Court.*

Hunters utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents during compliance checks by Refuge Officers, State Wildlife Officers, and other state/local law enforcement officers.

### Season

December 1, 2      Rain dates: December 8, 9 (if necessary)

### Species To Be Hunted

American black bear

### Bag Limit

Per State regulations

### Permits

A refuge permit, signed by the permittee, and a Virginia state hunting license and big game tags are required. **ACCESS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED WITHOUT A SIGNED PERMIT AND A COMPASS.** Signing the permit means you agree to abide by all terms and conditions of that permit including all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Lottery application deadline is October 6, 2006. Lottery selection confirmations will be mailed by close of business on October 13. For the selected hunters a permit fee of \$50.00 is due no later than November 6, 2006.

### Scouting

An official scouting day will be held on November 18 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Only hunters with signed permits and a compass will be allowed access into the refuge hunting areas on the scouting day. Guest will not be allowed to enter with permit holders.

### Hunting Hours

Hunters will be admitted into the refuge approximately one hour before legal hunting hours. Hunters must leave the refuge and sign out no later than one hour after legal hunting hours.

## **Refuge Check-in/Check-out**

Access to the designated bear hunt areas will be provided only through the two designated entrances: Railroad Ditch Road for the South Hunt Zone and Jericho Lane for the North Hunt Zone. All hunters must sign in and sign out at one of the two designated entrance points each time they enter and leave the refuge. Failure to sign in and/or out will result in permit revocation and prosecution in Federal Court. When an entrance reaches capacity, that area is closed to all other hunters for the day, even if a hunter checks out. All successful hunters must take their bear to the bear check station located at the refuge maintenance area, 3216 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA.

## **Weapons and Ammunition**

- Only 20 gauge shotgun or larger.
- Hunters may only use and have in their possession slugs; buckshot is prohibited.
- All other firearms are prohibited.
- You must unload, and encase or dismantle firearms transported via motorized vehicles on all refuge roads.
- Possession of loaded firearms (any ammunition in the chamber, magazine or clip) on or within 50 feet of a refuge road, including roads closed to vehicles, is prohibited.

## **Hunter Orange**

All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored blaze orange on their chest, shoulders, back, and head during the hunt. Camouflage hunter orange does not meet this requirement. A hat alone does not meet this requirement. A vest or other upper body garment is recommended to meet the requirement.

## **Tree Stands**

- Take the time to become thoroughly familiar with the proper procedures for using your tree stand. Exercise extreme care with its use.
- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven for support, is strictly prohibited.
- Tree stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each hunt day. Hunters will not be permitted to return to retrieve their stands.

## **Car Top Boats**

Car top boats may be used to cross the deep ditches.

## **Delays and Cancellations**

Hunts may be cancelled due to high fire danger or when rain or other inclement weather renders refuge roads unsafe to travel. In addition, rain delays can also occur on any day after the initial opening of the hunt. Decisions on weather cancellations of the hunt will be based on actual weather conditions and the 36-hour weather forecast from the National Weather Service. Significant precipitation on the day before a hunt, or a weather forecast of a 60% chance (or greater) for precipitation on the day of the hunt will result in the cancellation of that day's hunt. If a cancellation is necessary, every effort will be made to make that decision by noon of the day before the scheduled hunt. If any hunt dates are cancelled due to weather or road conditions, additional hunt dates will be scheduled on December 8 and 9 to replace the cancelled dates. No other "make up" dates will be provided.

Please call 757/986-3705 if the status of any scheduled hunt date is questionable. This hunt information line will provide the latest hunt information 24 hours a day effective noon, November 30.

### **Also Prohibited**

- Access to the designated bear hunt areas at any location other than through the Railroad Ditch Road and Jericho Lane entrances.
- The use of boats on Lake Drummond, the Feeder Ditch, or the Dismal Swamp Canal to access hunting areas.
- Hunting on any area that is not designated as part of the bear hunt area by signs or current hunt map.
- Shooting from or across a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles.
- Driving motorized vehicles off the roads and/or on roads closed to vehicles.
- Parking vehicles in any manner which blocks roads (including roads closed to vehicles).
- The use of permanent markers, such as paint, to locate stands or trails.
- Baiting or hunting over bait.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and all overnight use.
- Possession or retrieval of dogs in the designated bear hunt areas during any designated bear hunt date.
- Rifles, pistols, dogs, fires, littering, and the use of boat trailers.

### **Safety and Other Regulations**

1. In case of an emergency call 911.
2. As a requirement of your permit, you must carry a compass in your possession at all times. Know how to use it!
3. All harvested bears must be checked at the refuge official check station located in the maintenance area, 3216 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia.
4. Be sure the phone number which appears on your permit is a current number for emergency contact while you are hunting on the refuge. If the number has changed, please write the correct number on your permit and contact the refuge office during normal business hours with the new number.
5. Refuge wide speed limit is 25 mph on all refuge roads unless posted otherwise. Radar and other speed measuring devices are used to enforce speed limits.
6. The standard procedure for the search of an overdue hunter is to sound a siren next to the vehicle that is suspected to be the "lost" hunter's. If you are overdue in checking out and hear a siren you should respond by blowing a whistle or yelling.
7. Carry a hand saw in your vehicle. A tree falls somewhere on the refuge nearly every day. You may need to cut your way out.
8. Use extreme caution when pulling off the roadways. Road shoulders can be very soft.
9. The signs located throughout the refuge are posted for your safety as well as to help protect the resources. Adhere to all posted signs while on the refuge.



This sign indicates that absolutely no hunting is permitted beyond this point.



This sign indicates that absolutely no access is permitted beyond this point (foot, bicycle and vehicle).



The area beyond this sign is closed to vehicles but remains open to foot and bicycle access.

10. In addition to the required permit and compass, it is recommended that you keep the following items with you while hunting on the refuge:

- **Food and Water**
- **Flashlight**
- **Layered Clothing**
- **Matches or Lighter**
- **Whistle ( A coastguard approved boat whistle is suggested)**